

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:JRBULLINGTON:AOA

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P 092322Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS OREP, VS

SUBJECT: CODEL - ASC/VNCFC GROUP

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM STEARNS

REF: STATE 000867

1. AMBASSADOR DURBROW GAVE US LETTER HE SENT TO YOU ON JANUARY 7 CONCERNING JANUARY 14-20 VISIT OF GROUP SPONSORED BY AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL AND VIET-NAM COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. SINCE LETTER MAY NOT REACH YOU BEFORE GROUP'S ARRIVAL, I FELT YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE PRINCIPAL POINTS TELEGRAPHICALLY.

2. DURBROW STRESSES THAT GROUP IS COMING AS GUESTS OF VN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANTICIPATES NO NEED TO CALL ON EMBASSY FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT, AND DOES NOT WISH TO BOTHER YOU OR EMBASSY STAFF THOUGH WOULD APPRECIATE SHORT BRIEFING FROM YOU.

3. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TEXT OF PAPER -- APPARENTLY GIVEN BY GROUP TO GVN EMBASSY HERE FOR PURPOSES OF PLAN-

NING ITINERARY -- ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF  
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GROUP, WHICH IS ENCLOSED WITH LETTER:

A. POLITICAL PRISONERS - POLITICAL PERSECUTION: WHAT  
SUBSTANCE IF ANY?

IN ORDER TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE AL-  
LEGED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND AL-  
LEGED WIDESPREAD POLITICAL PERSECUTION, MEMBERS OF THE  
GROUP, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, SHOULD BE ABLE:

- 1) TO VISIT SOME PRISONS INCLUDING CON SON ISLAND.
- 2) TALK TO SOME OF THE PRISONERS.
- 3) TALK WITH MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
- 4) TALK WITH EDITORS FROM RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION  
PAPERS.

B. U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID--HOW EFFECTIVE?

TO GET A FIRM UNDERSTANDING OF THESE MATTERS, MEMBERS  
OF THE GROUP SHOULD BE:

- 1) SHOWN THE ACTION BEING TAKEN TO TRAIN ARVN TROOPS  
IN THE USE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WE ARE FURNISHING.
- 2) TOLD HOW MUCH MILITARY AID HAS BEEN FURNISHED AND  
WHAT IS NEEDED IF ANY.
- 3) SHOWN THE RESULTS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS,  
WHAT NEW PROJECTS ARE PLANNED.
- 4) TOLD IN SOME DETAIL WHAT INTERNAL REFORMS AND EF-  
FORTS THAT ARE BEING MADE TO TRY TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY  
AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE.
- 5) TOLD WHAT SORT OF ECONOMIC AID WOULD BE MOST  
EFFECTIVE IN ATTAINING BETTER STABILITY AND EVENTUAL SELF  
SUFFICIENCY, SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL CROP PRODUCTION, NEW  
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INDUSTRIAL CROPS OR ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE PLANNED FOR OFF-  
SHORE OIL DRILLING, ETC.

- 6) STATUS OF THE LAND REFORM PROGRAM.
- 7) WHAT IS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POPULAR FORCES  
IN DEFENDING VILLAGES AGAINST COMMUNIST ATTACKS.

8) HOW LARGE HAS BEEN THE DISTRIBUTION BY THE THIEU GOVERNMENT OF U.S. FURNISHED ARMS TO THE VILLAGERS

SERVING IN THE POPULAR FORCES.

9) WHAT POLITICAL REFORMS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO ASSURE CONTINUED FREEDOM IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

C. THE PEACE TREATY: CAN SOUTH VIET-NAM SURVIVE ANOTHER ALL-OUT ATTACK?

1) THE GROUP SHOULD BE GIVEN AS DETAILED INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE WITHIN SECURITY LIMITS AND AN EVALUATION OF INDICATIONS, INTELLIGENCE AND, IF POSSIBLE, ON THE GROUND EVIDENCE OF A POSSIBLE ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE DURING THIS DRY SEASON.

2) ON THE BASIS OF THIS EVALUATION ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR TYPES OF ADDITIONAL ARMS THAT ARE NEEDED TO BOLSTER THE CHANCES OF STOPPING AN ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE?

3) AS FIRM EVIDENCE AS POSSIBLE ON THE BUILD-UP OF HANOI TROOPS, MATERIEL, NEW ROADS, AIR STRIPS AND MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ALREADY INFILTRATED INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM FROM HANOI.

4) ARE LAOS AND CAMBODIA STILL BEING USED AS INFILTRATION ROUTES AND SANCTUARIES?

5) WHAT MORE, WITHIN REASON, SHOULD THE U.S. FURNISH TO BOLSTER THE CHANCES OF THE SOUTH VIET-NAM REMAINING FREE.

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D. OTHERS

1) SOME OF THE GROUP MIGHT, IF TIME PERMITS, LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT AND MAYBE VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS.

2) GET INFORMATION ON HOW MANY REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED AND WHAT ARE FUTURE PLANS.

3) WHAT SORT OF EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO EMPLOY REFUGEES PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY. KISSINGER

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